

D-803  
Daniel O. Seward House  
Cambridge  
c. 1885  
Private

The two-story, two-bay, two-room plan gable-front house form was built in large numbers throughout the city of Cambridge during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Designed to fit narrow lots with minimal street frontages, this house form suited middle class single family needs as well as requirements for company built row housing for the increasing population of factory workers. The company built housing, however, was usually of smaller overall dimension than the Daniel O. Seward house, and never built in brick. As a result, the Daniel O. Seward house, known during the mid twentieth century as the Hennie E. Cephas house, stands out in the Pine Street Neighborhood Historic District (D-390) as an unusual variation of a common house type employed pervasively in Cambridge. The Seward house retains its essential integrity with its common bond brick walls, brick side cornices, and four-over-four sash windows.

With an estimated date of construction during the 1880s, the full history of this High Street property has yet to be sorted out, but an early owner was town merchant Daniel O. Seward, who acquired the house and lot from George W. and Elsie James in May 1913. Daniel O. Seward and his family resided in different parts of Cambridge during the early twentieth century; the 1900 census has him and his wife residing on Cedar Street. By 1910 they are located on Academy Street; and by 1920 the family had relocated to Belvedere Avenue on the west side of the city. Daniel Seward retained ownership of this brick house, which he probably rented, until 1942. Between 1948 and 1972 it was known as the Cephas residence.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-803

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Daniel O. Seward House

other Hennie E. Cephas House

### 2. Location

street and number 635 High Street not for publication

city, town Cambridge vicinity

county Dorchester

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owner)

name Monroe J. and Sylvia E. Smith.

street and number 2427 Cambridge Beltway telephone

city, town Cambridge state MD zip code 21613

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber PLC 176 folio 528

city, town Cambridge tax map 302 tax parcel 2053 tax ID number 7-158734

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Contributing 1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	Noncontributing buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory

## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-803

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Daniel O. Seward house, known more recently as the Hennie E. Cephas house, standing at 635 High Street in the city of Cambridge, Dorchester County, is a two-story, two-bay, gable-front brick dwelling erected in five-course common bond around 1885-90. Facing southeast, the two-bay by two-bay rectangular dwelling is supported on a brick foundation, and it is covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. The house faces southeast with the gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Daniel O. Seward house, also the Hennie E. Cephas house, is a two-story, two-bay, gable-front brick dwelling built in five-course common bond. Located at 635 High Street, the two-room plan brick dwelling dates from 1885-90 and is one of oldest structures standing along the southern end of High Street before its intersection with Washington Street.

The southeast (main) façade is an asymmetrical two-bay elevation with a side entrance and adjacent four-over-four sash window flanked by a hip roofed porch. While the porch posts have been replaced, one remnant Victorian bracket survives in the rear north corner where it abuts the brick wall. The paneled front door is topped by a two-light transom, and the adjacent window trim retains shutter hardware. The second floor is lighted by two unevenly spaced four-over-four sash windows. The opening features wooden sills and lintels, and a flat rowlock arch spans the width of the opening above the wooden lintel. Due to rot, the second floor lintels have been infilled with a concrete or mortar type mixture. The gable end is built in common bond brick with an infilled triangular shaped vent evident in the uppermost peak of the brick wall. The edge of the roof has an extended eave which terminates at the base of the roof on a corbelled brick cornice that wraps the corner from the sides of the house.

The northeast side elevation is a longer two-bay façade with four-over-four sash windows lighting the first and second floors. Timber lintels and sill frame the window units, which retain remnant shutter hardware. Rowlock brick arches span the distance above the wooden lintels. The five-course common bond wall rises to a corbelled brick cornice that finishes the top of wall. Piercing the roofline is a centrally positioned brick stove chimney which has been reduced in height.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-803

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The two-story, two-bay, two-room plan, gable-front house form was built in large numbers throughout the city of Cambridge during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Designed to fit narrow lots with minimal street frontages, this house form suited needs for single family, owner-occupied residences as well as company built versions often erected in repetitive rows. The company built housing, however, was usually of smaller overall dimension and never built in brick. As a result, the Daniel O. Seward house, known during the mid twentieth century as the Hennie E. Cephas house, stands out in the Pine Street Neighborhood Historic District (D-390) as an unusual variation of a common house type employed pervasively in Cambridge during the late nineteenth century. The house retains its essential integrity with its common bond brick walls, brick cornices and four-over-four sash windows.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

With an estimated construction date during the 1880s, the full history of this High Street property has yet to be sorted out, but an early owner was a town merchant Daniel O. Seward, who acquired the house and lot from George W. and Elsie James in May 1913.<sup>1</sup> Daniel O. Seward and his family resided in different parts of Cambridge during the early twentieth century; the 1900 census has him and his wife Cedar Street.<sup>2</sup> By 1910 they are located on Academy Street<sup>3</sup>, and in 1920 they had relocated to Belvedere Avenue on the west side of the city.<sup>4</sup> Daniel retained ownership of this brick house and lot until 1942.<sup>5</sup> Between 1948 and 1972 it was known as the Cephas residence.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, WLR 6/135, 30 May 1913, Dorchester County Courthouse.

<sup>2</sup> Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, Population Schedule for Dorchester County, Ancestry.com

<sup>3</sup> Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, Population Schedule for Dorchester County, Ancestry.com

<sup>4</sup> Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920, Population Schedule for Dorchester County, Ancestry.com

<sup>5</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, RSM 44/522, 20 April 1942, Dorchester County Courthouse.

<sup>6</sup> Dorchester County Land Records, RSM 67/533, 13 November 1948; PLC 176/528, 9 June 1972, Dorchester County Courthouse.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-803

Name Daniel O. Seward House

### Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

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Daniel O. Seward House  
(Hennie E. Cephas House)  
635 High Street  
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 302, Parcel 2053

PLC 176/528

Helen B. Cephas

to

6.9.1972

Monroe J. Smith and Sylvia E. Smith

\$1,000

RSM 67/533

Gladys C. Andrews, et vir, W. Emmett Andrews

to

11.13.1948

Hennie E. Cephas and Helen B. Cephas

"439 High Street "First Lot being improved by a brick dwelling house...

RSM 44/522

Daniel O. Seward, widower, Dr. James U. Thompson, et al.  
Harlan G. Johnson, and Katherine C. Johnson

to

4.20.1942

Gladys C. Andrews

\$2,700 both lots conveyed in following deed

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Daniel O. Seward House  
Continuation Sheet

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D-803, Daniel O. Seward House  
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1918

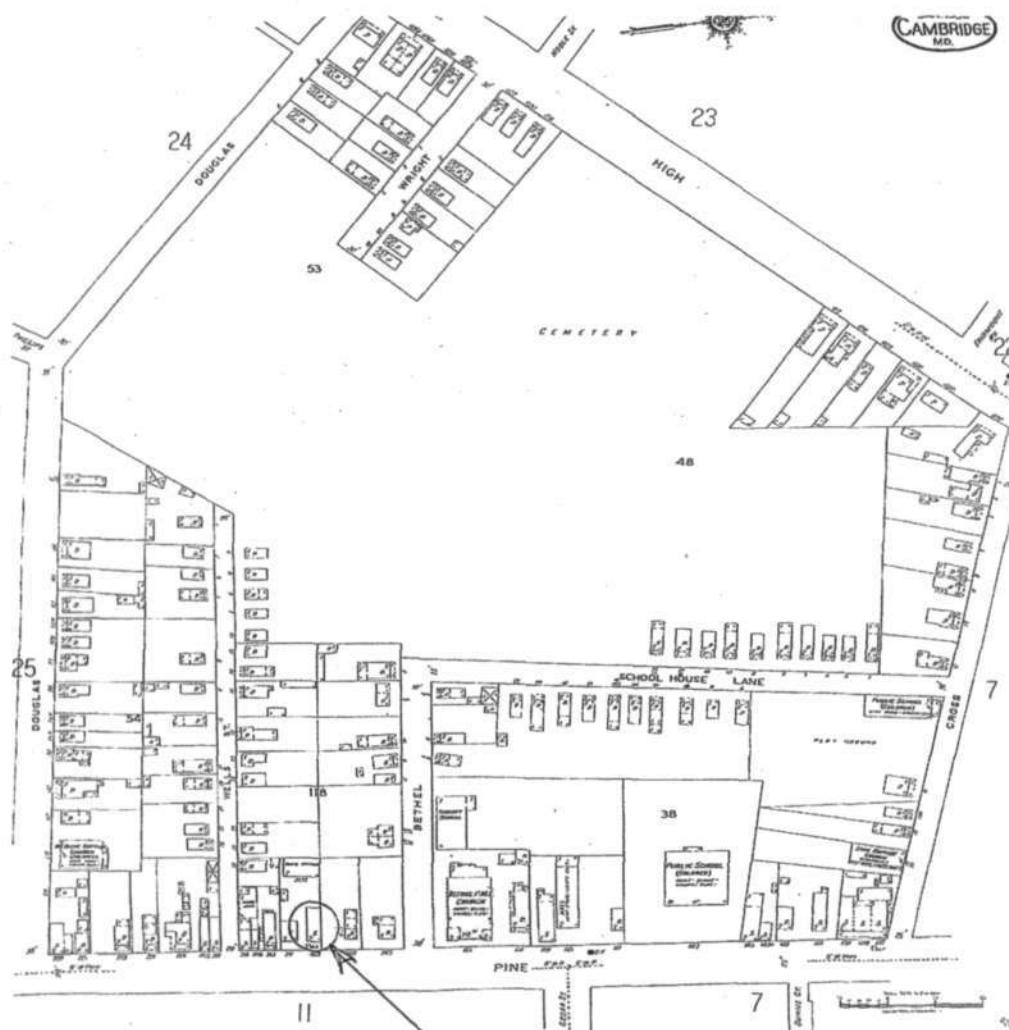


# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-803

Name Daniel O. Seward House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 4



D-804, Jackson & Hughes Store Bld  
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1930

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

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Name Daniel O. Seward House  
**Continuation Sheet**

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WLR 6/135

George W. James and Elsie M. James

to

5.30.1913

Daniel O. Seward

CL 34/779

George W. Emery & others

to

4.12.1909

George W. James, Daniel O. Seward, Wm H. Davidson, Jr.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-803

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.  
Sanborn Insurance Maps, Library of Congress.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 2,880 square feet

Acreage of historical setting \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Cambridge, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	1/8/2011
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

TALBOT CO  
DORCHESTER CO



D-803, Daniel O. Seward House  
Cambridge, Maryland Quadrangle



D-003, DANIEL O. DEWAR'S HOME  
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER CO, MA  
NORTHEAST ELEVATION

1. 2011, PAUL D. TOWART, PHOTO  
N.E. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

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